

# **Nelson Co. ATC Welding Students Win at Mid-West Invitational**



**Nelson Co. ATC welding students  
proudly show off their awards.**

Ten members of the Nelson Co. Area Technology Center's welding program recently traveled to New Castle, Indiana to compete in the 30th Mid-West Invitational Welding Competition sponsored by the American Welding Society – Indiana Chapter. In order to compete in the three-day tournament, a school must receive an official invitation and, for the 5th straight year, Nelson Co. ATC Welding Instructor Joe Grider accepted the invitation on behalf of his students. Nelson Co. ATC was one of twenty-four different schools representing five states with a total of 260 students competing in a variety of categories.

Grider's students are some of the most well trained across the state as evidenced by the second place overall team trophy they were awarded during

the official ceremony. Individual student winners included Issac Tucker, first place shielded Metal Arc Welding; Andrew Masters, second place in Flux Core Arc Welding; Jacob Coffey, fourth in shielded Metal Arc Welding; Zane Bagwell, fourth in Gas Metal Arc Welding; and Joe Coulter, fifth place in Gas Metal Arc Welding. In addition, all of the students won some of the more than \$12,000 worth of door prizes given away.

"I have been working with this particular group of students for three years and I'm proud of what they have achieved in my classroom, as well as during this competition," says Grider. "All of these students have already received jobs in the welding field. To me, that's what we are all about – training students for quality jobs so they can be self sufficient."

Instructors are always pleased when their students expertly perform the skills they have learned; however, Grider's students were also extremely proud of their instructor when he was presented with the "Dan Rayshick Award." Each year the Indiana American Welding Society nominates an instructor to receive this award to honor outstanding contributions and dedication to vocational education. This year, Mr. Grider was selected to receive the award.

"We are indeed lucky to have Mr. Grider as a valuable member of our faculty. He has trained extremely talented welders throughout the years; but most importantly, he has produced productive members of society by making a positive impact on the lives of many students. Without a doubt, he deserves this type of recognition. And, I could not be more proud of such a talented, polite, and experienced group of students. It has been a pleasure to get to know each of them on a personal level," says Nelson Co. ATC Principal John Sanders. "Mr. Grider and his students have represented us in a professional manner and there is a great deal of pride and dignity throughout our area technology center in what they have accomplished."



**Good News Story #205**  
**May 3, 2007**

